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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH
IN THE USSR

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FOREWORD

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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH
IN THE USSR

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APPEAL OF THE ALL-UNION CONFERENCE OF THE ACTIVE OF
PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS TO ALL MEDICAL WORKERS
OF THE SOVIET UNION

Following is a translation of an unsigned editorial in Zdravookhraneniye Tadzhikistana (Tadzhikistan Public Health), 1961, No 1, pages 3-10.⁷

Comrades! Participants of the All-Union Conference of the Active of Public Health Workers assembled in the Kremlin discussed the problem of the progress of carrying out the Resolutions of the CC of the Party and USSR Council of Ministers of 14 January 1960, "Measures for the Further Improvement of Medical Facilities and Public Health in the USSR." Under the leadership of the Party the Soviet people are carrying out the grandiose program of building Communism which was outlined by the Twenty-First Party Congress. The Seven Year Plan for the development of the national economy and culture is being successfully fulfilled. During the first two years of the Seven Year Plan 120 billion rubles more industrial products will be produced than that outlined by the plan. Volume of agricultural production for the past six years increased one and one-half times. The real income of the population for 1953-1960 increased more than 1.5 times. Thanks to the success in the development of the national economy the standard of living and cultural level of the people is increasing. Gradually the differences between physical and mental labor are being wiped out as are the differences between city and village. A shorter work day, a broad program of housing-communal construction and the organization of efficient worker recreation and the rapid development of Soviet science are creating favorable conditions for the successful struggle to lower the rate of sickness and mortality, for health improvement and for a flourishing of the physical and intellectual forces of the Soviet people. The physical development of the adult and juvenile population of the USSR has improved, and the life span of the Soviet citizen has increased to a considerable degree. Many dangerous infectious diseases have

been eliminated permanently. The tuberculosis rate, as well as that of other diseases has decreased considerably. The child mortality rate, in comparison with pre-revolutionary times, has decreased 7.5 times in the USSR, and the general mortality rate -- 4 times. The mortality rate in the Soviet Union is presently significantly lower than in such countries as the United States, England and France. The Soviet Union is now one of the healthiest countries in the world. This is the result of the great achievements in building Communism, toward the shining heights of which the Party is leading us. All of this was possible because in our socialist country "the state assumes the entire responsibility of the health of the workers" (Khrushchev).

The Soviet state provides the population with free, easily accessible and skilled medical aid. The USSR is the No. 1 country in the world for percentage of doctors per population. The total number of hospital beds is increasing rapidly, as is the number of dispensary-poly-clinic and children's medical institutions and pharmacies; the production of medicines and sick bed items is increasing. Public health has developed at a tremendous rate in the Republics. The CC of the Party and USSR Council of Ministers are providing constantly for the development of public health in our country. From year to year the allocations for public health and medical science are increased. During the course of the last few years several Resolutions by the CC of the Party and the Government were passed on the most important problems of improving medical facilities for the public. The Resolution by the CC of the Party and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for the Further Improvement of Medical Facilities and Public Health in the USSR" is new proof of the care shown by the Party and government for the health of the Soviet citizen. This Resolution was joyfully acclaimed by the entire Soviet nation as a manifestation of great concern for fulfilling its needs. Plena of the CCs of the Party, kray, oblast and city Party committees, sessions of the Supreme Soviet of Union and Autonomous Republics, local soviets of workers' deputies, conferences of the most active public health workers, devoted to the resolution of the CC of the Party and the USSR Council of Ministers, worked out measures for fulfilling this resolution and sought supplementary potentials. Public health organs were given hundreds of administrative buildings for organizing medical institutions, and millions of rubles were allocated in addition for obtaining equipment for hospitals, polyclinics and dispensaries. We sense the day by day aid given by Party, soviet and trade union organs in carrying out all these measures

for improving public health. In the RSFSR, nursery schools for 79,000 children and hospital institutions with 7,000 beds are being built this year with kolkhoz resources. In three years the kolkhozes of the Republic built nursery schools for 148,000 children, a large number of hospitals, obstetrician offices, pharmacies and housing for doctors. The kolkhozes of the RSFSR expended more than a million rubles on the construction of medical institutions. All-Union Republics are enjoying large-scale construction of hospital facilities by kolkozoes. Parallel with present achievements in the field of public health, the CC of the Party and USSR Council of Ministers indicated in their resolution serious shortcomings in public medical facilities. The increased requirements of the population for medical facilities have not yet been met. Workers are insufficiently provided with dispensary-polyclinic, and particularly dental facilities. There are serious shortcomings in the organization of hospital facilities, particularly in hospitals with a small number of beds. Many healing institutions are still poorly supplied with modern medical equipment and special furnishings. By the end of the Seven Year Plan the total number of hospital beds is to be increased by more than 40%. However, the funds allocated for the construction of hospitals are being used unsatisfactorily in many Republics (Kazakhstan, Georgia, Lithuania, Latvia and other Union Republics). Because of this, in the past year alone 15,000 hospital beds were not put into use. In certain scientific medical institutions projects are proceeding slowly in the search for effective means of prophylaxis and cure of diseases, and the most recent achievements of biology, physics, chemistry and radiology are not being incorporated in practice to a sufficient degree. The Resolution by the CC of the Party and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for the Further Improvement of Medical Facilities and Public Health in the USSR" determines the basic tasks of public health organs and institutions and outlines measures for basic improvement in public medical facilities. Medical workers are appealed to to match the tremendous care taken by the Party and government for the health of the nation, by their valiant labor. Our exalted duty is to fulfill honorably the tasks placed before us by the Party and government and to achieve in a short period of time further improvement in public medical facilities.

Prophylaxis was and is the main line in the development of Soviet public health. The duty of medical workers is to make free use of the rich opportunities provided by the Soviet government for the development of sickness pre-

vention projects, to improve its forms and achieve high effectiveness. Under the conditions of a socialist state disease prevention is carried out by public health organs together with Soviet, trade union and economic organizations as well as the broad masses. It is necessary to join forces to obtain a further improvement of working and living conditions, organization of public facilities in urban areas, the elimination of harmful external factors and a rise in the level of public health education. A major obligation of medical workers is the prevention of diseases which undermine the health of the nation. Particular attention is demanded by the fight against cardio-vascular diseases, the number one killer and disabling illness. In the prevention and cure of these diseases, the dispensary system acquires a particularly important role. Physical culture, curative and production gymnastics, physical fitness, efficient labor and recreation organization should occupy a permanent place in the arsenal of curative and preventive remedies of each hospital, polyclinic and medical department. The fight against malignant tumors is also worthy of particular attention. It is essential to diagnose tumors and pre-tumor ailments in time, as well as to practice combined methods of curing tumors, including modern methods of radiation and medicinal therapy alongside surgery. Scientific research institutions should step up research on cancer, since further success in the fight against malignant tumors will depend to a considerable degree on the successes of medical science.

Unstinting efforts are necessary in the fight against influenza, tonsillitis and traumatism. It is necessary to devote great attention to decreasing the temporary disability of bench and office workers, which in many cases is still quite high, and causes damage to the national economy. The USSR Council of Ministers passed a Resolution in September of this year on "Measures for Further Decrease in Tuberculosis." The Resolution provided for broad measures for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis. It is essential to undertake measures for the immediate fulfillment of this Resolution and to control rigidly the carrying out of anti-TB measures. A Resolution of the CC of the Party and the USSR Council of Ministers has obligated us to take measures for the complete elimination of diphtheria, rabbit fever, polio, hydrophobia, tetanus, ancilostomidosis, trachoma, and to achieve a sharp decline in the incidence of serious intestinal ailments, typhoid fever, ascaridosis and brucellosis. The elimination or sharp decrease in the incidence of some of these diseases as, for example, diphtheria, polio, tetanus, etc., depends entirely on us, on our organization, discipline and accuracy in work. Science has armed public

health with a sufficiently reliable means of preventing diphtheria. We possess effective means against polio. We appeal to medical workers to achieve a sharp decrease in the next two years and in the following three to five years the complete elimination of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus with the extensive use of associated vaccines. We can assume that our scientists will provide effective means against measles and will provide physicians with means to fight this widespread illness with such serious consequences. One of the main tasks of public health organs is to furnish the public with suitable polyclinic and hospital facilities. Public polyclinical facilities should occupy a leading position in the system of public medical service. It is necessary to improve constantly the forms and methods of the work of polyclinics and to improve the quality of disease prevention, diagnostic and curative work in the polyclinic institutions. The lag in stomatological aid must be eliminated as rapidly as possible. The growth of the economy and culture of the kolkhoz village obligates us to achieve the gradual elimination of substantial differences in the level and nature of medical facilities available to the urban and rural population. This requires great and extensive effort. An extremely important task of the next few years is the formation of large rayon hospitals by constructing new ones and expanding existing ones, a sharp increase in the number of hospital beds a full complement of physicians and other medical personnel, an improvement in equipment. It is essential to develop oblast hospitals and increase the number of specialized departments in them, achieving a maximum approximation of specialized medical aid for the rural population. Efforts should be continued to form large inter-kolkhoz hospitals. It is essential to do everything possible to encourage kolkhoz construction of medical and children's institutions. Our aim is for every kolkhoz to have a kindergarten-nursery school, milk kitchen and children's consultation point. Physicians, nurses, doctors' assistants, obstetricians and non-qualified nurses! A patient requires sincere and sensitive care. We must create in every polyclinic, hospital, dispensary and other medical institutions an atmosphere of care, attention, warmth and a truly humane attitude toward the patient. The daily, exemplary operations of medical institutions depend on us, on our intelligence and desires. In the in-ward, in the physicians' office and in the sick ward, the patient should feel that he is being taken care of. We shall remember that the quality of medical aid and, consequently, a more rapid cure and return to labor and social activity by the patient depends on the correct fulfillment of all of these

requirements.

One of the most important tasks is children's health protection. During past years a considerable decrease in child mortality has been achieved, but this should not leave us completely satisfied. We should achieve further decrease. Success in this depends to a considerable extent on the proper organization of operations in children's medical institutions, the work of district physicians and lesser medical workers. We are able to resolve this task. For this purpose we possess great reserves which can be used successfully, primarily achieving a sharp decrease in deaths from pneumonia and severe intestinal disorders. We have models of fine work in this area. In the city of Leningrad, with a climate which is unfavorable for small children, the mortality rate from tuberculosis is three times lower than the average for the cities in the Soviet Union. Six times less 10-year olds in Leningrad die each year from serious intestinal disorders than the average for the USSR. Much can be learned also from public health workers in Vinnitskaya oblast and the city of Minsk, which have decreased child mortality to a significant degree.

We appeal to all medical workers to follow steadfastly the beginnings of the country's leading medical institutions. We appeal to all scientists-medical men and primarily to obstetricians-gynecologists and pediatricians to develop scientific research on a broad front as well as practical work in lowering the infant mortality rate. Disease prevention during pregnancy, improvement in the art of childbirth aid and care for prematurely born infants -- all of these are important conditions for lowering infant mortality. The Party and the Soviet Government have surrounded the Soviet mother with great care and have formed all the essential conditions for guarding her health. It is essential also in the future to secure further decrease in maternal and infant mortality, as well as still-births. Workers of obstetric and gynecological research institutes, pediatrics, chairs of obstetrics and gynecology and children's illnesses should focus their attention on the solution of problems connected with protecting expectant mothers, the fight against abortions and new-born infant pathology. Further success in lowering disease and mortality rates and improving public health is connected to a significant extent with the increase in medical cadres and with an improvement in the quality of their training. After the All-Union Conference of the Active of Public Health Workers in 1956, the number of physicians increased to 380,000 from 329,400. In 1965 the country will have more than 500,000 physicians. But, despite the high incidence of physicians among the population of the USSR, in many regions

of the country there is a shortage of doctors. The workers in certain public health departments are not showing sufficient concern for the correct distribution of physicians between city and village, on the expedient use of medical cadres. It is the direct duty of all public health workers to eliminate shortcomings in distribution of medical cadres and to show greater care for improving the conditions of work and living conditions for medical workers. The need for lower-qualification medical workers and pharmacy workers is not being completely taken care of. Therefore, larger freshmen classes in medical schools is a very present task of the public health organs. It is essential to assure a high quality of training of medical workers who will be capable of selflessly serving the people and who are conscious of their great responsibility before the nation. In view of the further progress of science and technology in our country and the implementation of scientific achievements, it is necessary for us to do more for raising the level of the technical knowledge of medical cadres and to acquaint them with the newest achievements of technology in the practical work of medical institutions. For this it is first of all necessary to improve the material-technical basis of medical schools, to strengthen medical institutes with highly skilled professorial-instructor cadres, to improve constantly teaching-methodological and training work among the students. We must do everything we can to develop and improve the work of institutes of advanced training and local specialization facilities.

Sanitary facilities of urban areas are of great significance for public health. We are asked to keep the air of our cities and industrial centers free from pollution, as well as the soil and water basins. At the same time, public health organs have not shown the necessary attitude of urgency to the directors of sovnarkhozes and enterprises in the struggle to conduct timely sanitary and health measures and for sanitary conditions in populated areas. Workers in medical organs are asked to take active part in the work of planning organs and sovnarkhozes in the planning of sanitary-health measures. It is essential to attract on a broad front trade union, Komsomol and public organizations in the fight against water, soil and air pollution. Medical workers should also be tireless in the fight to carry out extensive sanitary-hygienic measures on the job, at home, in the city and village, in the struggle to achieve a high sanitary level and to arouse and organize broad strata of the population for the liquidation of shortcomings in sanitary facilities. An urgent task facing the organs of sanitary supervision is a strengthening of supervision over the distribution of industrial enterprises, over the observance of sani-

tary requirements in construction and reconstruction, as well as the campaign for a model communal facility system for populated areas and for sanitation on the job. The considerable growth of public dining facilities and increase in the production of food products requires increased work in the field of food sanitation. Scientist-hygienicians, together with clinical surgeons and physiologists, should develop rational nutritional standards for various age and professional categories with consideration of climatic conditions in various regions of the country. We should do everything we can to further the carrying out of all necessary medical-disease prevention measures for the physical development and health of children and adolescents -- the future builders of Communism. Propaganda of sanitary-hygienic information aids the conscientious attitude of Soviet citizens toward public health and toward the observance of hygienic requirements at home and on the job.

We should spread sanitary propaganda among the population, particularly among the growing generation. Every medical worker should consider one of his most important and honorable obligations to be the medical education of the population in order to improve public health. It is essential to use all means and all potentials, including movies, radio and television, work among students and educators, at enterprises and on collective farms. Soviet public health is the people's public health. We shall form and expand our medical activity everywhere, doing everything possible to increase the efforts of the population itself in the field of public health, attracting more and more workers toward work in public councils, organized by medical-disease prevention institutions, to participate actively in the work of permanent public health commissions of local soviets of workers' deputies, attracting the broad masses to more active participation in them. It is also necessary in the future to insure the broad participation in public health of the Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations, public medical representatives, medical posts and detachments. The broad popular campaign for cleanliness and for a high level of sanitation, for proper sanitary facilities in populated areas, should in the future enjoy the broad support of medical workers, trade union, Komsomol, public organizations and economic organs. The active appeals to medical workers to be in the vanguard of this movement, to be pioneers and to aid success in every way possible. Close ties are essential between medical science and practical public health for the successful solution of tasks placed before public health by the party and government. The country expects from scientist-medical men the resolution of the most important tasks in the field of aetiology, disease prevention

and cure of insufficiently studied illnesses with the broad use of the modern achievements of physics, chemistry and biology on the basis of new paths opened up by research. The new methods of research, based on the achievements of nuclear physics, biochemistry and on the broad application of radio-electronics, have increased the opportunities of diagnosis and cure to a great degree. The newest achievements in the field of chemistry, physics, biology and medicine create the conditions for developing and obtaining more and more effective remedies and objects of medical technology. The requirements of the public and public health institutions for medicines and other medical products is growing more rapidly than the production of these medicines is developing. Workers of enterprises in the medical industry should insure a further expansion of production, a regular decrease in cost of medicine production. This will make it possible to supply medical institutions and the public to an improved degree with medicines and other medical products. It is necessary to expand the scientific research-design and experimental base for the creation of new and effective remedies and medical-technical equipment on the basis of the modern achievements of science and technology. The rate of development of the pharmacy system lags far behind the growing demands of the public. There are still insufficient numbers of pharmacies and pharmaceutical warehouses and the radius of their operations is quite large. It is essential to increase the production of ready-to-take medicines from year to year, not only at enterprises but in laboratories, raising the level in the next two to three years to 70-75% of the total amount of medicines on the market. In order to get full value and the element of timeliness out of furnishing the public with medicines it is essential to develop pharmacies, pharmaceutical departments in polyclinics and to sell there ready-to-take medicines already packaged. Pharmacy workers should work every day to improve service and to fulfill the needs of medical institutions and the public as completely as possible. The level and quality of medical-prophylactic facilities for workers depends to a considerable degree on further improvement in the manner and methods of directing all organization work of public health organs and institutions. It is the duty of public health organs and institutions and of all medical workers to extract maximum use from all reserves and potentials, to make intelligent and efficient use of those material means which the Soviet state allocates for public health. It is essential to make a broad study of and disseminate latest findings. A good example should be obligatory for all! Comrades! During the period of the increased rate of the building of Communism

medical workers are aiding in carrying out the great plans of Communistic construction by their work in maintaining and strengthening the health of the nation. Constant Marxist-Leninist education of all medical workers is the surest guarantee of our success. The participants of the All-Union Conference of the Active of Public Health Workers express their assurance that all public health workers in our country, inspired by the Resolution of the CC of the Party and the USSR Council of Ministers, as well as by the greetings sent by the CC of the Party and the Soviet government, will devote all of their ability and talent to the further improvement of medical facilities and public health.

TADZHIK PUBLIC HEALTH

Following is a translation of a speech by the Minister of Health of the Tadzhik SSR, Ya. A. Rakhimov at the All-Union Conference of the Active of Public Health Workers, printed in the journal Zdravookhraneniye Tadzhikistana, 1961, No 1, pages 11-14.⁷

During the years of Soviet authority, thanks to the Leninist nationalities policy, Tadzhikistan has changed from a backward agrarian border area of tsarist Russia with feudal bases into a flourishing socialist republic with a highly developed industry and first-rate agriculture, the level of development of which any capitalist country might envy. Culture and education are growing at a gigantic rate, and public health is being formed literally from the ground up. In 1913 there was a total of four hospitals with 40 beds on the territory of Tadzhikistan. At present we have 238 hospital institutions, more than 14,000 hospital beds and 2,345 physicians, plus 7,620 lesser medical workers. The development of the system of medical-disease prevention institutions in the republic is fine testimony of the day by day care taken by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet government for the satisfaction of the growing material and cultural requirements of the public. In 1929 there were 900 hospital beds in the republic, while at present the annual increase is more than 1,500. The number of x-ray units and laboratories has more than doubled during these years. Right now 660 surgeons assistant-obstetrician units are functioning, while before the Great October Revolution there was not one in Tadzhikistan. The development of public health proceeded particularly rapidly after the historic Twenty-first Party Congress, the Resolutions of which were permeated with fatherly concern for man -- the builder of Communism. The resolution of the CC of the Communist Party of Tadzhikistan and the Council of Ministers Tadzhik SSR of 27 October 1958, "On the State of Public Health in the Republic and Measures for Its Further Development,"

the tasks facing medical workers during the current Seven Year Plan were clearly formulated; the attention of local Party and Soviet organs, directors of enterprises, state farms and collective farms were focused on problems dealing with guarding the health of the workers; substantial additional material resources were mobilized.

It gave us the opportunity to be fully equipped to meet and organize operationally the fulfillment of the historic resolution of the CC of the Party and the USSR Council of Ministers. In the past two years a large number of facilities have been transferred for the use of children's and medical institutions, resulting in an increased condensation and cutting down of administrative organs and an enlargement of rayons. Parallel with this, new capital construction has taken on a broad scope. The Republic Council of Ministers resolved to speed up new construction to a maximum extent using reserve funds at the disposal of the government. Thanks to this, the construction of hospitals, polyclinics, dispensaries and maternity homes as well as medical-epidemic stations is going on at a rate considerably greater than that of the Seven Year Plan task. This year expenditures for capital constructions amounted to 52 million rubles, five times greater than allocations for 1953, and more than double that the preliminary 1960 plan. 29 million rubles of this sum are the result of supplementary allocations from the Council of Ministers' reserve. The construction of a 1200-bed clinical medical center in Stalinabad is going at full speed. The first unit of the complex -- an oncological dispensary with 200 beds and a radiological section -- is already in the finishing stages. Construction is underway on four specialized buildings for 180 beds each, as well as two buildings of the children's hospital for 220 beds. Construction is being completed on model 100-bed rayon hospitals in several rayons in the republic. Parallel with this, construction is being expanded on medical and children's institutions on kolkhozes. During the past two years seven kolkhozes built their own hospitals and the kolkhoz workers of the Kolkhozabadskiy and Shaartuzskiy rayons are constructing 100-bed inter-kolkhoz model hospitals. This year construction will be completed on a 12 million ruble inter-kolkhoz sanatorium, on the shore of the Vakhsh River in Kurgan-Tyubinskiy rayon. During the Seven Year Plan 120 million kolkhoz rubles will be spent in the republic on the construction of hospitals, nursery schools and kindergartens, sanatoria and rest homes.

Much attention is being devoted to improving the water supply of populated areas. During the course of

three years 15 water supply systems have been constructed, and at present water supply systems are being built in 16 populated areas. We are endeavoring in the current Seven Year Plan to build water supply systems in all cities, rayon centers and worker settlements in the republic. A water supply plan has been developed for kolkhozes with the use of sub-surface water. Each year the sickness rate and mortality rate decrease in Tadzhikistan. Malaria, smallpox, cholera, leishmaniasis and other diseases have been wiped out, which formerly claimed thousands of lives; the incidence of trachoma, tuberculosis, goitre, skin and venereal diseases, etc., has dropped sharply. Much work has been done to train cadres of medical workers. During the 21 years of its existence, the Stalinabad Medical Institute imeni Abuali-ibni Sino graduated more than 2500 physicians. 60 of these defended candidates' and doctoral dissertations. Last year two more faculties were added -- a pediatrics faculty and a faculty for advanced physician training. In training scientific workers-Tadzhiks, active part was and is taken by the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, medical and scientific research institutes of the country's centrally located cities. We should note the fraternal aid extended in training cadres by eminent Moscow and Leningrad scientists Pavlovskiy, Speranskiy, Bakulev, Myasnikov, Ternovskiy, Zhdanov, Syrovatko, Rudnev, Yegorov, Tareyev, Skvortsov, Zhmakin, Babayants and many others. We note with great satisfaction the great role played in the organization of anti-epidemic measures in the republic by the Moscow Central Institute for the Advanced Training of Physicians, which organized this year a physicians' expedition into several rayons of Tadzhikistan. An important event in the life of the medical men of the republic was the opening in 1959 of the Tadzhik SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Regional Medicine. In coming years new scientific research institutes will be formed; medical scientists are intending to devote serious study to the problems of regional pathology in the future. However, we must confess that the level of public health does not yet correspond to the level of development of productive forces and culture in our republic. There are many shortcomings and omissions. Childbirth aid and child public health are lagging behind, and there are omissions in facilities for workers of industrial enterprises and adolescents; the public dispensary system is being incorporated slowly, and in certain institutions facilities for patients are rather poor. There still is an incidence of stomach-intestinal infection. All of this testifies to the fact that the Ministry of Health and its organs at the local level should work more doggedly, with better organization,

and should attract the public to help solve problems of public health, as well as decisively strive for a rise in the level of public sanitary facilities. These are our most important, if we can express ourselves in this manner, domestic tasks and we shall be able to cope with them without a doubt. First of all we need the aid of cadres, of which there is still a lack in the republic. The lack of sanitary inspectors, stomatologists and pediatricians is particularly grave. We request the USSR Ministry of Health to direct to us each year no less than 150 physicians and to take more energetic measures to insure their arrival. For our own part, we shall take all measures possible to cut down on cadre turn-over, to secure for arriving physicians suitable working and living conditions. With a hot climate and a lack of precipitation during the six to seven summer months, regular cleaning of cities and rayon centers, street washing, sidewalk and tree washing acquire tremendous significance in lowering the incidence of intestinal and other infections. This is important also because dried Loess soils are transformed into fine powder which is carried by the wind for great distances. Tadzhikistan needs special equipment -- sweeping and watering machinery -- more than other areas of the country. Our cities do not possess sufficient equipment of this type and our orders are regularly not fulfilled by the USSR Gosplan. Medical motor vehicle transport and medical planes are particularly important in the mountains. UAZ ambulances are not at all suitable for our mountain roads and high temperatures. We request that new models of ambulances be developed as rapidly as possible, taking into consideration climatic zones and road conditions, and we ask that they be produced and delivered in quantities such as correspond to the standards ratified by the USSR Ministry of Health and coordinated with the Gosplan. At the same time we ask that our medical air fleet be strengthened with helicopters of new design, with higher maximum ceilings.

The tremendous scope of construction of medical institutions demands from Gosstroy a more serious and attentive attitude to problems of standardized planning of hospitals, polyclinics, maternity homes and other medical-disease prevention sanitary-epidemiological institutions, taking into consideration climatic and seismic zones. "Giprozdrav" is lagging behind in this. It is falling behind the seven league strides of life. There are yet no plans for necessary hospitals, polyclinics and dispensaries for seismic zones. At the same time fine plans drawn up locally are evidently not under study at Gosstroy. It seems

to us that the USSR Gosstroy should form a special group, department or administration for planning standardized medical institutions, which would considerably speed up and lower costs of construction. The problem of organizing the supply of medical and children's institutions with medical apparatus and instruments is worthy of serious attention. At present it is difficult to obtain the most modern apparatus in the outlying regions -- evidently it is taken up by the central areas. Usually orders are not filled. An objective distribution of apparatus among scientific research and medical institutes should be undertaken by a definite commission formed of representatives of the USSR Ministry of Health, the Academy of Medical Sciences and learned medical councils of republic Ministries of Public Health. At the same time it is necessary to solve the problem of increasing sharply the production of spare parts for equipment. Often valuable equipment stands around idle due to the lack of one small part. The medical industry is producing very little medical apparatus and equipment for children's hospitals. Up to the present there are no tonometers for children and blood pressure is measured by equipment for adults. The USSR Ministry of Health should take care of this. Now a few words on sick room furniture. In Central Asia there is no construction lumber. The furniture industry is just beginning to develop in Tadzhikistan. Taking this circumstance into consideration we request that the USSR Gosplan legalize during the coming three to four years the centralized supply of sick-room furniture, primarily children's, for the Central Asian Republics. We think that it is necessary to solve one more supply problem. Standards of expenditure of all types of inventory per bed were established in 1949. They no longer are satisfactory and should be revised upward. The medical workers of Tadzhikistan are doing everything in their power to successfully cope with new tasks for the further steady improvement of medical facilities and public health.

RESULTS OF THE WORK OF THE ALL-UNION CONFERENCE ON
THE PROBLEM OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ONCOLOG-
ICAL AID

Following is a translation of an article by
A. I. Paches in the journal Zdravookhraneniye
Tadzhikistana, 1961, No 1, pages 57-59.

In 1960 an All-Union Conference on the problem of the organization of oncological aid and regional peculiarities in the distribution of cancer in the Soviet Union took place in Stalingrad. The Conference was attended by more than 400 physicians-specialists from the various republics and cities of our country. The choice of Stalingrad as the seat of the Conference was no coincidence. During the last 10 years Stalingradskaya oblast has organized a large system of institutions for fighting cancer. In 1960 the oblast oncological dispensary was awarded a prize by the USSR Ministry of Health for success achieved in fighting malignant growths. There are 16 oncological offices in Stalingrad, 12 in the oblast as well as 7 oncological dispensaries. Stalingrad achieved great success in organizing examinations of the entire population, beginning with the age of 30. Lesser qualified medical workers were used for this also. Thanks to fine organization of disease preventive examinations, there was a significant improvement in early diagnosis of cancer and the ascertainment of pre-tumor condition. For example, there have been no advanced cases of lip cancer for the last 10 years; neglected forms of skin cancer and cancer of the breast -- since 1953; the number of neglected cases of cancer of the uterus in 1959 was only 6.9%. Stalingrad has collected great experience in work in the field of early diagnosis, treatment and prevention of oncological diseases. At the Conference, chief specialist in oncology for the USSR Ministry of Health, Ye. G. Kudimov, devoted his report to an analysis of the fight against cancer in the republics and oblasts of the USSR. He directed the attention of the participants on the formation of large oncological institutions, drawing physicians of

various specialties, including physician-therapists, cytologists, etc., into the fight against malignant growths.

L. F. Nikitina, head of the department of the RSFSR Ministry of Health, read a report on the role of public institutions in fighting oncological diseases. Both in the report and in the discussion the leading and coordinating role of dispensaries was stressed in the fight against cancer, in directing the activities of general medical institutions and raising the qualification level of physician-oncologists. It is necessary to improve contacts between these institutions, mutual information on cancer patients as well as their numbers, which has been incomplete up to the present. The main specialists of city and oblast health departments, as well as ministries, should direct all measures for the organization and the actual fight against malignant growths. Prophylactic examinations by physician-oncologists should be made, in accordance with plans, discussion and analysis of cases of neglected cases of disease. The main reason for the neglected forms of cancer is insufficient knowledge by physicians in the general medical system of questions dealing with the early diagnosis of malignant tumors (35-40%). Therefore, the Conference strongly recommended that oncology be taught in medical institutes in order that the students would receive the necessary knowledge of oncology. The great experience in fighting cancer in cities was totalled up at the Conference. However, the Conference did not decide on a system of fighting cancer in rural areas. In rural areas, where rayons extend for tens of kilometers, the fight against cancer is usually handled by surgeons in rayon hospitals. A surgeon devotes little attention to the extensive and difficult oncological work, since he is fully occupied in his basic work. Speakers said that in the future it would be necessary to form inter-rayon dispensaries or departments which, just like city dispensaries, would organize their work in close contact with rayon medical-prophylactic institutions. Here in the republic it is necessary first of all to organize full-fledged oncological consulting offices, which in the near future would be able to form the basis for forming inter-rayon oncological dispensaries or branches of rayon hospitals.

Much attention was devoted to the study of work in examination offices. These offices, where most of the persons with pre-tumor conditions show up, can employ specially trained average medical workers. The idea of forming diagnostic stations was an interesting one. We should seriously consider forming these stations in the large cities in our republic. In diagnosing malignant growths, great significance was attributed to clinical

microscopy. The report by Professor N. N. Shiller-Volkova, devoted to a cytological diagnosis of cancer, caused heated discussion. Cytological research serves as a great help in the early discovery of cancer. Professors Serebrov and Rakov, etc., spoke of the necessity of scientific work carried out by doctors in oncological dispensaries and, primarily, the study of the effectiveness of tumor treatment. A second problem discussed at the conference was that of the regional peculiarities of the distribution of malignant tumors. Study of this problem has been carried on particularly intensively during the past 5 to 6 years. The speeches testified to the fact that regional differences in the distribution of cancer do occur. These peculiarities are far from being fully ascertained, and therefore this problem should definitely be a subject of serious scientific research for physicians-oncologists. It is necessary to consider the conditions of the external environment and the basic sickness and mortality rate indices. The resolution passed by the medical workers at the Conference appealed for an all-out improvement in the organization of the fight against cancer.